

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 080440Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7947

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCOMSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4636

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ON INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: MRS. GANDHI HAS PUBLICLY TERMED THE "TIMING" OF THE U. S. ARMS EMBARGO ANNOUNCEMENT AS "UNFORTUNATE," STATING THAT THE PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF "SITUATION" BUILT AROUND "FRUITFUL TALKS" BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTAN HAS SUBSEQUENTLY "CHANGED." IN A NUMBER OF RECENT SPEECHES SHE HAS ALSO CRITICISED THE WESTERN PRESS FOR CREATING AN "ATMOSPHERE OF GLOOM" ABOUT INDIA, DEFENDED THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA, ATTACKED THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR UNDER-UTILIZATION OF CAPACITY, DENIED THAT STARVATION DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED IN INDIAN AND CHARGED J. P. NARAYAN'S MOVEMENT WITH LENDING "RESPECTABILITY" TO VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. MRS. GANDHI HAS COMMENTED ON CURRENT POLITICAL

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EVENTS ON FOUR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST SIX DAYS.

HER STATEMENTS COVERED INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS NATIONAL TOPICS. IN GENERAL, THEY WERE REITERATIONS OF WHAT SHE AND SENIOR GOI/CONGRESS OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SAYING.

2. INTERNATIONAL: IN AN APRIL 2 QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION WITH INDIAN AND FOREIGN SCHOLARS CONNECTED WITH THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATION (IIMC), THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT THE "TIMING" OF THE RECENT U. S. ARMS EMBARGO DECISION WAS "UNFORTUNATE." THE HEAVILY GOI-SUBSIDIZED PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) WIRE SERVICE QUOTED HER AS SAYING THAT "IT WAS WHEN WE WERE HAVING FRUITFUL TALKS WITH PAKISTAN ON TRADE, SHIPPING AND NORMALISATION OF OTHER RELATIONS THAT THE SITUATION CHANGED WITH A RENEWED SUPPLY OF ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE TIMING IS UNFORTUNATE. OUR PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY UPSET. PAST EXPERIENCE IS THAT WHEN ARMS COME FROM ABROAD, PAKISTAN TAKES AN AGGRESSIVE POSTURE. ITS LEADERS CHANGE THE TUNE AND MAKE WARLIKE SPEECHES." ON PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL INSURGENCY PROBLEMS SHE ADDED, "IT IS FOR PAKISTAN TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE BALUCHIS AND THE PAKHTOONS. ALTHOUGH SMALL IN POPULATION, THEY HAVE SHOWN GREAT COURAGE AND EVOKED WORLDWIDE SYMPATHY." MRS. GANDHI ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS "OUR HOPE AND EFFORT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A WEAK NEIGHBOR IN PAKISTAN" CLAIMING THAT "IT WAS PAKISTAN'S OWN POLICIES WHICH HAD MADE IT WEAK AND LED TO THE SEPARATION OF BANGLADESH." IN HER RECENT NOW PUBLISHED LETTER TO MORARJI DESAI ON THE EVE OF HIS FAST (NEW DELHI 4631), THE PRIME MINISTER JUSTIFIED THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMERGENCY, HOLDING THAT "IT IS ONLY THE IMPERATIVES OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN A HIGHLY FLUID SITUATION IN THE REGION WHICH HAVE DELAYED THE REVOCATION OF THE PROCLAMATION."

3. IN AN APRIL 5 SPEECH TO A TWO-DAY GOVERNORS CONFERENCE IN DELHI, MRS. GANDHI PINPOINTED THE WESTERN PRESS AS ESPECIALLY TO BLAME FOR AN "ATMOSPHERE OF GLOOM" THAT IS SURROUNDING INDIA. SHE CLAIMED THAT INDIA HAS EMERGED STRONGER FOR EVERY RECENT CHALLENGE, INCLUDING THE BANGLADESH WAR AND TWO DIFFICULT ECONOMIC YEARS. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SAME SPEECH SHE ALSO ATTACKED THE "SPATE OF REPORTS" (PRESUMABLY ALSO FROM THE WESTERN PRESS) ABOUT THE TORTURE OF PRISONERS THAT HAD TARNISHED THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY.

4. INTERNAL: MRS. GANDHI STRUCK A DEFENSIVE POSTURE IN COMMENTING ON INDIA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN HER SEPARATE SPEECHES. IN AN APRIL 4 ADDRESS TO A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN NEW

DELHI, SHE CRITICISED PRIVATE INDUSTRY FOR EXTENSIVE UNDER-UTILIZATION OF CAPACITY, AND CONTENDED THAT INDIA'S INFLATION, THE HIGH COST OF OIL AND FERTILIZER WERE INEVITABLE OUT-COMES OF WORLDWIDE TRENDS. SHE DENIED THAT THE GOI HAD NEGLECTED AGRICULTURE AND INSISTED THAT SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA'S PREDOMINATELY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MUST OF NECESSITY FOLLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH. IN HER REMARKS TO THE IIMC GROUP, SHE DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN STARVATION DEATHS IN INDIAN AND CLAIMED THAT THE "MOMENTUM OF DEVELOPMENT" IN AGRICULTURE WAS CONTINUING.

5. ON J. P. NARAYAN'S MOVEMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER CHARGED THAT RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAD LENT "RESPECTABILITY" TO VIOLENCE. SHE STATED THAT EDUCATIONAL REFORMS SHOULD BE MADE (SOMETHING THAT NARAYAN HAS BEEN CALLING FOR) AND CLAIMED THAT NARAYAN WAS BEING "EXPLOITED" BY THOSE FOLLOWING HIM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, SPEECHES, THE PRESS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
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**Draft Date:** 08 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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